

Congressman DeFazio is one of the few gerontologists serving in Congress. He has been active in issues that affect seniors and older working Americans for more than three decades, predating his tenure in Congress. He has consistently supported efforts to protect Social Security benefits for seniors and the long-term solvency of the program. He opposed the prescription drug reform bill that created the so-called donut hole, and he is a strong supporter of legislation that would allow Medicare to negotiate lower prices for prescription drugs. DeFazio serves as a member of the Congressional Seniors Task Force, a coalition of House Members committed to issues important to seniors.

Social Security

2010 marks the 75th anniversary of Social Security, and today more people than ever depend on its benefits. We must continue to provide a guaranteed level of benefits which creates a safety net for retired workers. DeFazio is opposed to privatizing Social Security benefits. DeFazio has fought to guarantee a full cost-of-living adjustment and has offered a clear path to long-term fiscal solvency for Social Security.

Medicare

The recently passed health care reform law strengthens Medicare for seniors. The law will immediately begin to phase out the donut hole under the Medicare Part D Prescription Drug Program to benefit more than 14,000 seniors in southwest Oregon that fall into the donut hole each year. The bill also boosts pay to doctors in Oregon who accept Medicare patients to improve to healthcare for seniors. The bill also eliminates billions in waste, fraud and abuse and streamlines services which will extend Medicare solvency by at least 9 years, to 2026.

In the 111th Congress (2009-2010):

Social Security:

- In July, DeFazio became an original cosponsor to *H.R. 5987, The Seniors Protection Act*, which will provide a one-time \$250 payment for Social Security beneficiaries, Veterans and SSI recipients if there is no automatic COLA in 2011. All major senior advocacy organizations support this bill, but unfortunately it ignores the fact that there was no COLA in 2010.

- On October 15, 2009, the Social Security Administration announced that Social Security recipients would not receive a COLA in 2010, the first time beneficiaries will not receive a COLA since it was tied to inflation. DeFazio introduced the "*Emergency Senior Citizen's Relief Act*," *H.R. 3810*, in October of 2009. This bill extended to 2010 the \$250 Emergency Economic Recovery Payment provided to more than 55 million Americans in the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act. This payment would assist Social Security Recipients, Veterans, SSI recipients, Railroad Retirees and public employees not entitles to any of the previous benefits. H.R. 3810 did not borrow money to pay for the one-time payment but rather changed the tax structure to make the bill deficit neutral. Social Security payroll tax (which currently taxes earnings below \$106,800) would also have been applied to earnings above \$1.29 million. This legislation provided on average, a 2% increase in Social Security benefits. Companion legislation was introduced in the Senate by Senator Bernie Sanders (I-VT).

- On October 14, 2009 President Obama announced support for a *one-year extension of the one-time \$250 payment*, but offered to pay for the legislation from borrowed money. The President thanked Congressman DeFazio and Senator Sanders for their efforts on this legislation. Leading advocacy groups including the AARP and National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare also supported this legislation.

- DeFazio wrote an editorial in the Register Guard that printed October 22, 2009 arguing this payment should not come from borrowed money. DeFazio wrote a letter with 22 of his colleagues on December 11, 2009 to Speaker Pelosi and Ways and Means Chairman Rangel asking that this legislation be included in pending job creation legislation.

- In May, 2009, DeFazio introduced *H.R. 2365, the "Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers Act"*. This bill would direct the federal government to prepare and publish a monthly Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers (CPI) that indicates changes over time in expenditures for consumption which are typical for individuals aged 62 years of age or older. This index would then be used to calculate the cost-of-living increases for Social Security and Medicare benefits so that payments would more accurately reflect the costs of goods and services consumed by beneficiaries.

- DeFazio is a cosponsor of the “*Social Security Fairness Act of 2009*.” The bill would repeal the government pension offset (GPO) and the windfall elimination provision (WPE) that reduce dependents' benefits. Many of these individuals are spouses, widows, and widowers with limited income.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 211, legislation to establish 211 as a non-emergency number to learn about social service programs for which seniors and others may be eligible.

Medicare:

- *Congressman DeFazio was instrumental in including language into the healthcare reform law to fix the longstanding Medicare geographic inequities* . Oregon has long been discriminated against in the Medicare payment structure, resulting in one of the lowest reimbursement rates in the country, despite producing some of the best health outcomes. Eugene is the 5th most efficient provider of Medicare in the country. For example, in Oregon—according to the latest figures—federal spending for a Medicare enrollee averages \$7,000, while an enrollee in Miami, Florida averages \$17,000. This is because Medicare currently uses an antiquated method to calculate reimbursement rates. More and more Oregon doctors are refusing to take Medicare patients because the reimbursement rate is so low they cannot afford to care for patients. This is especially a burden for seniors in rural areas with fewer provider options. This language is a major step in fixing this inequity.
- Also in the healthcare law, seniors who enter into the “donut hole” this year will receive a \$250 rebate. Additionally, seniors on Medicare will get a 50% rebate for brand name drugs in the donut hole as it is being phased out starting in 2011.
- Starting next year, the healthcare law directs Medicare to offer a free yearly physical as well as eliminating all co-pays for preventative services such as cancer, glaucoma and diabetes screenings as well as flu shots and cardiovascular screenings. No co-pay means more seniors will get services and treatment earlier which will benefit their health and save the Medicare system money.

- DeFazio voted in favor of the Medicare Premium Fairness Act, H.R. 3631. This bill expands the Medicare Part B premium freeze for all beneficiaries in a year when there is no Social Security COLA. Under current law, only 75% of Medicare enrollees are protected from Medicare part B premium increases in such a year. This does not prevent Part D prescription drug premiums from increasing in a year with no COLA nor does it serve as a substitute for a COLA. This bill passed the House, but was never taken up by the Senate.
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In the 110th Congress (2007-2008):

- On April 25, 2007 DeFazio introduced *H.R. 2032, the "Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers Act."* This bill would direct the federal government to prepare and publish a monthly Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers (CPI) that indicates changes over time in expenditures for consumption which are typical for individuals aged 62 years of age or older. This index would then be used to calculate the cost-of-living increases for Social Security and Medicare benefits so that payments would more accurately reflect the costs of goods and services consumed by beneficiaries. At the close of the 110th Congress, H.R. 2032 had 79 cosponsors.

- DeFazio also cosponsored *H.R. 368, the "Notch Fairness Act."* This bill corrects a loophole in the computation of Social Security benefits that resulted in the changes made to the system in 1977. H.R. 368 would allow workers affected by the change, those who attained the age 65 after 1981 and before 1992, to choose either lump sum payments over four years totaling \$5,000 or an improved benefit computation formula.

- DeFazio cosponsored *H.R. 82, the "Social Security Fairness Act of 2007."* The bill would repeal the government pension offset (GPO) and the windfall elimination provision (WPE) that reduce dependents' benefits. According to the Congressional Budget Office, the GPO reduces benefits by approximately \$3,600 a year for 200,000 people. Many of these individuals are spouses, widows, and widowers with limited income.

- DeFazio was an original cosponsor of legislation, *H.R. 4, to overturn the prohibition on*

Medicare negotiating bulk discounts for seniors through the Medicare prescription drug program that was included in the original prescription drug law. H.R. 4 was approved by the House January 12, 2007. The Senate has not acted on the bill.

- As he has during prior sessions, DeFazio again cosponsored legislation, *H.R. 380, allowing Americans to re-import lower-cost FDA-approved drugs from other industrialized countries like Canada.*
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.Res. 18, legislation that would block the Social Security Totalization Agreement President Bush signed with Mexico, which would vastly expand the number of foreigners eligible for benefits. The non-partisan investigative arm of Congress, the Government Accountability Office, has written that the agreement the President signed has an uncertain cost, could lead to hundreds of millions of dollars or more being diverted from Social Security, and could provide an incentive for illegal immigration.
- DeFazio cosponsored *H.R. 1783, legislation that would make grants available to eligible agencies to resolve, prevent, detect, treat, intervene in, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.*
- DeFazio is again a cosponsor of *H.R. 1353, the Social Security Truth in Budgeting Act*, legislation to prohibit the Social Security surpluses from being included in the federal budget baseline and from being used to offset any other spending or tax cuts.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 211, legislation to establish 211 as a non-emergency number to learn about social service programs for which seniors may be eligible.

On November 26, 2007 DeFazio joined his colleagues in writing a letter to House Appropriations Chairman Obey and Ranking Member Walsh requesting full funding for the Social Security Administration (SSA). The letter, which includes a request for \$9.872 billion to the SSA, details how this level of funding is urgently needed to allow SSA to begin to address the disability claims backlog crisis and to reverse the current trend of deteriorating service to Americans nationwide.

In the 109th Congress (2005-2006)

ØDeFazio continued to be a leading voice *against* privatizing Social Security and in favor of protecting the existing program. To that end :

In January 2005, DeFazio wrote a newsletter devoted to Social Security that was sent to all registered voters in Southwest Oregon. The newsletter provided information on the financial status of Social Security, the serious problems with privatization, and DeFazio's own reform legislation. The newsletter is available on his Social Security website.

Also in January 2005, DeFazio sent four different letters to his colleagues in Congress debunking various arguments made by proponents of dismantling Social Security via privatization.

On March 19, 2005, DeFazio wrote an op-ed that appeared in the *Coos Bay World* explaining how Social Security privatization would hurt small businesses.

On April 7, 2005, DeFazio wrote a letter to President Bush challenging the President's assertion that the Social Security Trust Fund is worthless.

DeFazio continued to update his own Social Security legislation for possible introduction. The DeFazio approach would protect and enhance the existing Social Security system by: lifting the cap on wages subject to the Social Security payroll tax so that individuals making over \$90,000 a year will pay the same tax rate as the average worker in Oregon making \$30,000 a year (currently, income above \$90,000 is not subject to the Social Security payroll tax); exempting the first \$4,000 in wages from the Social Security payroll tax, so everyone earning less than \$94,000 a year actually gets a payroll tax cut; allowing the assets in the Trust Fund to be diversified into investments other than just government bonds; improving benefits for widows and widowers; and creating a minimum benefit guarantee for low-wage workers. The Social Security actuaries have certified earlier versions of DeFazio's legislation as restoring solvency

to Social Security over the entire 75-year window that is analyzed.

- DeFazio voted against H.Con.Res. 95, the fiscal year 2006 federal budget drafted by the House Republican leadership. One of the reasons DeFazio voted against it is because the Republican budget proposed using every single penny of the \$1.1 trillion Social Security surplus for other government spending and tax cuts over the next five years.
- DeFazio voted against H.Con.Res. 376, the fiscal year 2007 federal budget drafted by the House Republican leadership. One of the reasons DeFazio voted against it is because the Republican budget proposed using every single penny of the \$1.1 trillion Social Security surplus for other government spending and tax cuts over the next five years.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of *H.R. 653, the Social Security Truth in Budgeting Act*, legislation to prohibit the Social Security surpluses from being included in the federal budget baseline and from being used to offset any other spending or tax cuts.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of *H.R. 3601, the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers Act*, which would establish a CPI-E for Social Security recipients that would more accurately measure cost-of-living increases for seniors by focusing on the rising cost of products most often purchased by seniors, such as prescription drugs. This would lead to higher and more realistic COLAs for Social Security recipients.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of two bills, H.Con.Res. 50 and H.Res. 20, that would block the Social Security Totalization Agreement President Bush signed with Mexico, which would vastly expand the number of foreigners eligible for benefits. The non-partisan investigative arm of Congress, the Government Accountability Office, has written that the agreement the President signed has an uncertain cost, could lead to hundreds of millions of dollars or more being diverted from Social Security, and could provide an incentive for illegal immigration.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of *H.R. 147, the Social Security Fairness Act*. This legislation would repeal the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision. WEP affects the way Social Security retirement or disability benefits are calculated. This law was passed by Congress to prevent federal retirees from collecting sizable Social Security benefits in addition to their full federal retirement annuity. Unfortunately, the formula used by Social

Security to calculate benefit amounts was arbitrarily modified, giving federal retirees a lower Social Security benefit. With respect to the GPO, under current law, the offset reduces the amount of one's Social Security spouse's or widow's benefit by two-thirds of the amount of their government annuity. H.R. 147 would repeal the law so that annuitants could keep more of their spouse's Social Security benefits. DeFazio signed a discharge petition to force the House leadership to schedule a vote on H.R. 147. The bill has 326 cosponsors, but the Republican leadership is still blocking a vote. The petition has been signed by 120 members. 218 signatures are necessary to force a vote.

DeFazio continues to be active in promoting improvements to Medicare:

DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 3861, the Medicare Informed Choice Act, legislation to extend the enrollment period for the new prescription drug program through all of 2006. Currently, if seniors don't sign up by May 15, 2005, they have to pay a penalty for each month that lapses before they sign up.

DeFazio is a cosponsor of a couple of bills to allow Americans to reimport lower cost drugs from other nations, including Canada. The bills include H.R. 328, the Pharmaceutical Market Access Act and H.R. 700, the Pharmaceutical Market Access and Drug Safety Act. Both of these bills are bipartisan. A provision in H.R. 5441, the fiscal year 2007 Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, allows Americans to bring in a 90 day personnel supply of drugs with them from Canada. H.R. 5441 was presented to the president for his signature on October 3, 2006.

DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 376, the Medicare Equitable Drugs for Seniors Act, legislation authorizing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate bulk drug discounts on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries in the same way the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Pentagon already do.

DeFazio is also a cosponsor of H.R. 752, the Medicare Prescription Drug Savings and Choice Act. This legislation would allow the federal government to negotiate bulk drug discounts for Medicare beneficiaries and would require that the monthly premium under Part D be uniform nationally and not subject to change during the year.

DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 11, the Medicare Rural Home Health Services Improvement

Act, bipartisan legislation to provide for a two-year extension of the temporary Medicare payment increase for home health services furnished in a rural area.

DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 1333, legislation to authorize qualified physical therapists to provide benefits under Medicare without a physician referral.

DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 2356, the Preserving Patient Access to Physicians Act, legislation to improve the reimbursement formula for physicians participating in Medicare.

DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 2869, legislation to end the 24 month period that an individual who begins receiving Social Security disability benefits must wait before becoming eligible for Medicare.

- On September 6, 2006, DeFazio joined Representative Walden and others in introducing H.R. 6080, the Health Care Access and Rural Equity Act of 2006 (H-CARE). This legislation includes loans to renovate hospital infrastructure; grants to underwrite the purchase of health information technology; increases in reimbursement payments to hospitals for ambulance, lab and other services and for Medicare and Medicaid patients; and a requirement of prompt reimbursement of rural pharmacies by Medicare.

- DeFazio is a cosponsor of *H.R. 1322, the Emergency Retiree Health Benefits Protection Act*. This legislation prohibits group health plans from making post-retirement reductions in retiree health benefits.

- DeFazio is the author of *H.R. 4358, the Influenza Vaccine Emergency Act*. In response to persistent flu vaccine shortages over the last several winters, and in light of a possible avian flu epidemic, DeFazio reintroduced legislation to strengthen the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act to respond to a health emergency. In the case of a flu vaccine shortage or flu epidemic, the Secretary of HHS could declare a national health emergency. If a manufacturer or distributor was not in compliance with government distribution guidelines, under a national health emergency, the Secretary would have the authority to seize vaccine supplies from manufacturers and distributors that have been paid for by federal, state, and local government entities, and distribute the vaccine.

In the 108th Congress (2003-2004)

- DeFazio voted against the House Republican budget resolution for FY04 and FY05, which largely mirrored President Bush's budget proposals. One of the reasons for his vote is that the Republican proposals would spend \$2 trillion over ten years in the Social Security and Medicare trust funds on other government programs and to fund tax cuts for the richest Americans.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of *H.R. 2262, the Consumer Price Index for Elderly Consumers Act*, which would establish a CPI-E for Social Security recipients that would more accurately measure cost-of-living increases for seniors by focusing on the rising cost of products most often purchased by seniors, such as prescription drugs. This would lead to higher and more realistic COLAs for Social Security recipients.
- DeFazio voted *against H.R. 1, the Republican Medicare Prescription drug bill*, which provides scant benefits to seniors while lavishly subsidizing the pharmaceutical and insurance industries.
- In August 2004, DeFazio released a report on the Medicare drug discount card program prepared at his request by the Democratic Staff of the House Committee on Government Reform. The report found that the discount cards failed to provide real savings to most seniors.
- DeFazio supported several bills that would truly address the high cost of prescription drugs and provide Medicare coverage of prescription drugs. The bills would require companies to offer seniors on Medicare the same prices they offer their most-favored customers, enable Americans to take advantage of lower costs of drugs manufactured to FDA specifications in other countries by allowing reimportation, bring generic drugs to market faster, and requiring drugs developed with taxpayer funds be provided at a reasonable price.

- In September 2004, DeFazio joined several other Oregon Representatives in contacting HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson urging him to support Governor Kulongoski's plan to reimport drugs from Canada.
- DeFazio reintroduced *H.R. 757, the Drug Company Gift Disclosure Act*, legislation to require prescription drug manufacturers, packers, and distributors to disclose certain gifts provided in connection with detailing, promotional, or other marketing activities to health care entities. The legislation is intended to publicize drug company gifts that may influence prescribing practices of physicians and contributing to rising drug costs.
- As he has in past congresses, DeFazio is a cosponsor of *H.R. 97, the Notch Fairness Act*. This bill would provide notch victims a choice of either a \$5,000 lump sum payment over four years, or an improved benefit computation over 10 years.
- DeFazio has supported alternative federal budget proposals, and offered his own amendment, to roll back the tax cuts for those making more than \$373,000 a year in order to reduce the federal budget deficit and stop the raiding of the Social Security trust fund to pay for other government functions and tax cuts for the wealthy.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of *H.R. 1677, legislation to protect seniors with defined benefit retirement plans by ensuring that retirees are protected if employers convert defined benefit plans to cash balance pension plans*. DeFazio also voted in favor of an amendment by Representative Sanders (I-VT) to H.R. 5025, the fiscal year 2005 Treasury-Transportation Appropriations Act, to prohibit the Treasury Department from moving forward with regulations to promote cash balance pension plans. This amendment was adopted 237-162 on September 21, 2004. The Senate has not yet acted on this measure.
- Similarly, DeFazio joined dozens of colleagues in writing to the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) in opposition to an April 2004 EEOC ruling that employers were well within their rights to drop health care coverage for retirees. This ruling was issued shortly after Congress approved the Medicare prescription drug legislation.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of *H.R. 594, which would repeal both the Social Security Windfall*

Elimination Provision (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO).

WEP affects the way Social Security retirement or disability benefits are calculated. This law was passed by Congress to prevent federal retirees from collecting sizable Social Security benefits in addition to their full federal retirement annuity. Unfortunately, the formula used by Social Security to calculate benefit amounts was arbitrarily modified, giving federal retirees a lower Social Security benefit. With respect to the GPO, under current law, the offset reduces the amount of one's Social Security spouse's or widow's benefit by two-thirds of the amount of their government annuity. H.R. 594 would repeal the law so that annuitants could keep more of their spouse's Social Security benefits. DeFazio has also signed a discharge petition to bring H.R. 594 to the House floor. If 218 members sign the petition, then the House Republican leadership is forced to allow a vote on the bill. To date, the petition has 193 signatures.

- DeFazio wrote to the House Appropriations Committee in support of increased funding in fiscal year 2004 for nutrition programs under the Older Americans Act, including meals at senior centers and home delivered meals.
- DeFazio is a cosponsor of H.R. 3111, legislation to establish 211 as a non-emergency number to learn about social service programs for which seniors may be eligible.

In the 107th Congress (2001-2002)

- DeFazio voted against the President's budget proposals as well as his tax cuts, which picked the lock on the Social Security lockbox and led to the raiding of the Social Security trust funds, which had been protected by the end of the Clinton administration. The President has proposed spending the entire 10-year Social Security surplus on other government operations.
- DeFazio continued his role as a leading critic of plans by President Bush and others to partially privatize Social Security. DeFazio testified in front of the House Ways and Means Committee in March 2002 against plans to privatize Social Security and in favor of his own plan to stabilize the program.

- Authored legislation, *H.R. 3315, the Social Security Stabilization and Enhancement Act of 2001*, that was certified by the Social Security Administration actuaries as restoring 75-year solvency to Social Security without resorting to privatization. The DeFazio legislation exempts the first \$4,000 in wages from the Social Security payroll tax; lifts the cap on wages subject to the payroll tax (currently, wages above \$84,900 are exempt from payroll taxes) so, like Medicare, all wages are subject to the FICA tax; increases benefits up to five percent for those over age 85; and allows a portion of the Social Security trust fund to be invested in equities. The investing would be done by private fund managers selected by an independent Social Security Investment Oversight Board. The private fund managers would be required to act only in the fiduciary interest of beneficiaries and would be restricted to investing in broad index funds.
 - Requested the GAO investigate the causes of the flu vaccine shortage during the Winter 2000 flu season. GAO concluded (1) delays in vaccine production and haphazard distribution created the shortages and drove up prices, (2) no mechanism is currently in place to distribute the vaccine to high-risk individuals should there be a shortage in the future.
 - The results of the GAO investigation led DeFazio to draft H.R. 910, the Influenza Vaccine Emergency Act, legislation to strengthen the authority of the Secretary of Health and Human Services to respond to inadequate supplies of the flu vaccine. In the case of a shortage, the Secretary could seize vaccines and mandate a new method of distribution to ensure those most at-risk receive the vaccine.
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In the 106th Congress (1999-2000)

- DeFazio voted repeatedly for so-called Social Security "lock boxes", which were supposed to wall off surplus Social Security revenue from being used for other government programs.
- Author of H.R.2717, a bill to preserve Social Security for future generations without reducing benefits by making progressive changes in the payroll taxes that fund the Social Security system. DeFazio testified about his legislation before the House Ways and Means

Committee in June of 1999 at a hearing on proposals to improve the long term solvency of Social Security.

- *Author of H.R.773, a bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act.* This Act expired in 1995 and authorizes funding for programs like Meals on Wheels. The bill had 233 cosponsors (218 votes are required to approve legislation in the House) and was endorsed by every major senior citizen advocacy group including AARP, the National Council on Aging, the National Council of Senior Citizens and the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare. The bill was also the subject of a discharge petition garnering 191 signatures. A discharge petition with 218 signatures will allow the bill to be brought to the House floor for a vote, even with the opposition of House leaders and the Committees of jurisdiction. Overwhelming support for DeFazio's bill forced the congressional leadership to finally reauthorize the OAA. On November 1, 2000 the bill was signed into law, five years after the programs had expired.

- ☐ Secured approval of legislation that helped reopen Cottage Grove's only hospital. DeFazio first introduced legislation, together with members of the House Rural Health Care Caucus, to improve access to healthcare in rural areas. Parts of this bill, including the Cottage Grove hospital provisions, were included in the Medicare Balanced Budget Refinement Act, H.R.3194. This legislation was approved by Congress and enacted into law on November 29, 1999 as part of the fiscal year 2000 Omnibus Appropriations Act.

In the 105th Congress (1997-1998)

- DeFazio voted against the Balanced Budget Act of 1997 because of the deep cuts in Medicare that were included. The cuts were so deep that Congress began restoring them a few years later.

In the 103rd Congress (1993-1994)

- *Author of H.R. 1883, legislation to rectify the Social Security benefits discrepancy known as "the notch."* DeFazio tried to force a floor vote on the notch issue by pushing notch reform as an amendment to H.R. 11, the Urban Aid Bill on June 29, 1992. He delayed the bill for a number of days, thus creating a minor crisis with the leadership. The bill was finally brought forward under suspension of the rules, no amendments allowed. Peter voted against the final Urban Aid bill because it had become a Christmas tree laden with tax goodies, including a repeal of the luxury tax on yachts, furs and expensive jewelry. CBO estimated the luxury tax repeal cost the Treasury \$389 million over five years.
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In the 101st Congress (1989-1990)

- *Author of legislation, H.R. 1564, to revise the Medicare Catastrophic Coverage Act of 1988.* DeFazio voted against the Medicare Catastrophic bill which proved unpopular with seniors and was ultimately repealed by H.R. 3607, enacted into law on December 13, 1989.
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In the 100th Congress (1987-1988)

- *In 1988, DeFazio voted against the Medicare Catastrophic Protection Act, arguing that it would drive up health care costs for seniors without improving coverage or quality.* In 1989, following protests by millions of seniors, Congress agreed, enacting legislation DeFazio sponsored to repeal the Act.